

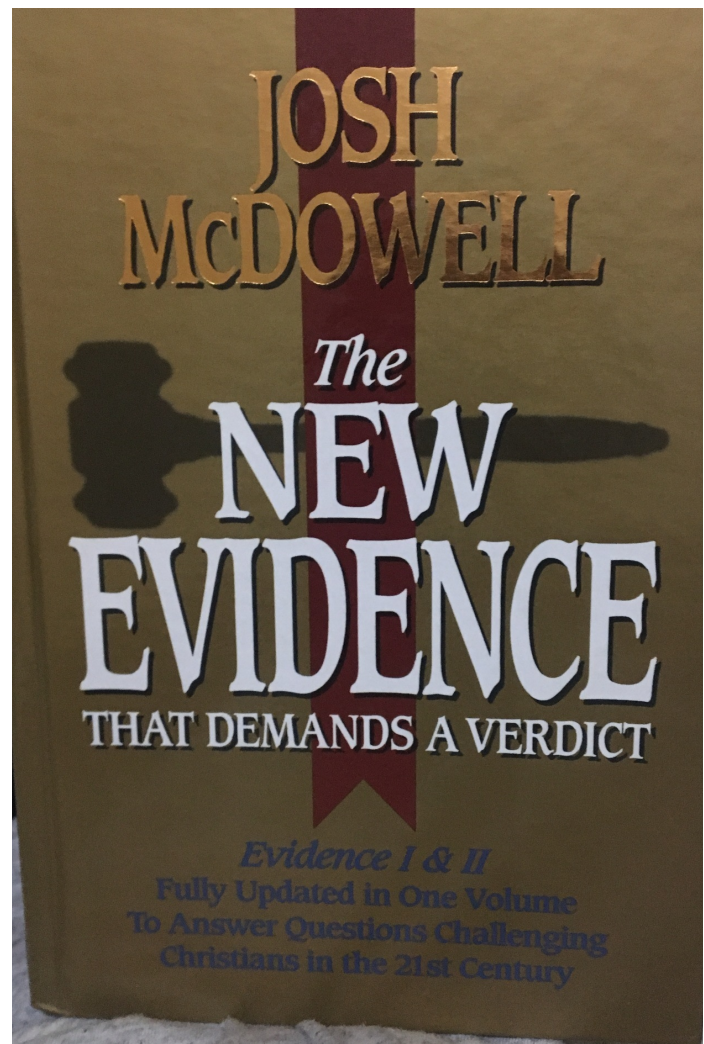


HANNAH'S ADVENTURES IN MISSIONS

Update

August has been a rather eventful month. The first week of this month, I was really struggling with **doubting** God and my faith. I have an issue where if a simple question goes unanswered for too long, it festers in my spirit, I over think it, and it becomes way bigger than it deserves. I have been studying the book of John, and I started questioning the holiness of Jesus, which led me to think I was a crazy person for believing the gospel and following God to Honduras. My doubts mixed with stress about Spanish and a healthy portion of homesickness led to a rough first week of August. However, God was not slow to provide. I confided in my teammate Kenan, and he basically told me that it is past time for me to do whatever it takes to make myself sure in what I believe. He quoted James 1, which says that one must pray and not doubt, for whoever doubts is like a wave tossed in the ocean; they are unstable in everything they do, and can't expect to receive anything from God. This passage infuriated me because it was exactly how I felt, but I had no clue how to do anything about the doubts. When we studied in Lubbock, we bought a textbook called The New

Evidence that Demands a Verdict, which is excellent to prove the reliability of the gospel. During the conversation Kenan asked me if I brought that book to Honduras, and I said "of course not, that thing weighs like 20 pounds!" He told me "well, right now you need to pray," and hung up the phone. I prayed one of the most petulant prayers of my life and went to sleep. By the following Monday, I came across two copies of that book, and one of the other AIMers, Landon, gave me his notes on that textbook. I was also reminded through various conversations of the many times God has



undeniably proven his existence to me, and had the opportunity to process some of my questions about Jesus with my counselor. **I learned** from this experience #1 to doubt my doubts before I doubt the God of the universe. #2 to have patience when I question, doubt, or pray. God has never necessarily answered my questions to my satisfaction or given me exactly what I asked for, but he has ALWAYS reassured me of his presence, his love, and that I can have faith and wait on him. #3 I learned that I can trust my coordinator Jon Stacy enough to talk about things. Until these doubts, I had never had a deep conversation with him, but now I know if I need to talk he will listen.

The following week was super **fun**. We had some past AIMer girls come visit us, and

it was nice to be able to talk to them about their fields, learning Spanish, the fun of traveling, and the future. Their visit really encouraged us. That week there was also a wedding, we went to a bonfire, and basically had a great time.

August also came with **sickness**. One day Ruth and I were both pretty sick at the same time; I had a sinus infection while she had a parasite and stomach infection. On a separate occasion, I broke out in hives for the first time in my life, and they lasted for three days. Culture shock came for me when I was sick and all I wanted was my dog to cuddle me and some canned chicken noodle soup. But praise God all of those sicknesses passed relatively quickly and were not super serious.

I am **blessed**! The fact is that most days, I come home feeling like it was a really good day. Most Sunday nights, I'm genuinely excited for work Monday morning. There have been a few days every once in a while where I felt like I was never going to learn Spanish, or make deep relationships with Hondurans, or just plain missed my Mommy, but those days are a minority. I am so super thankful to be in Honduras, I am loving the adventure I get to live, and I deeply enjoy growing each day in my relationship with God and knowledge of his world. God is daily providing for me. I have a weekly bible **study** with one of my coworkers who is a strong, mature Christian woman named Yulema, and she encourages me and inspires me to be responsible and disciplined. Ruth and I are also part of a weekly women's small group, and we're studying a book about cutting the lies of Satan with the truth of God's word. I do a lot of reading and studying the Bible in Spanish throughout the week, and I really enjoy it.

Prayer requests

-Ruth's sister Mary has been visiting us for a few weeks, and she'll be traveling back to the states on Thursday.

-one of the elder's wives, Rosa Portillo is sick and in the hospital in San Pedro Sula, and has been struggling with depression

-We will be starting a high school girls group this Saturday, so I would appreciate prayers that the girls will show up, and open up about their lives. And please pray that I would understand their Spanish, and be diligent to prepare a short devotional each week for them.

-my coworker Damaris could use prayers for healing of old wounds



I love working as Sara's assistant. A few weeks ago, the theme for DESEO was dental hygiene, and with our classes we played hot potato as the review activity at the end of class.

Much love

Hannah Baker